

Masthead Logo

**The Iowa Review**

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Volume 28

Issue 2 *Summer/Fall*

Article 19

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1998

# The Verge

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## Recommended Citation

Twichell, Chase. "The Verge." *The Iowa Review* 28.2 (1998): 45-45. Web.  
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.S002>

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## *Chase Twichell*

### THE VERGE

Inside language there was always  
an inkling,  
a dark vein branching,

bird-tracks in river sand spelling out  
the fact of themselves,

asking me to come toward them  
and scratch among them with a stick  
all the secrets I could no longer keep,

until my words were nothing  
but lovely anarchic bird-prints themselves.

I think that's the verge right there,  
where the two languages  
intertwine, twigs and thorns,

words telling secrets  
to no one but river and rain.

### PAINT

Lotions and scents, ripe figs,  
raw silk, the cat's striped pelt . . .  
Fat marbles the universe.

I want to be a faint pencil line  
under the important words,  
the ones that tell the truth.